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Cuba
ECON 3-01 US/USSR (wheat)
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The OAS Must Act on Cuba . . .

The conference of American Foreign Ministers, beginning today in Washington, may well decide the future of the Organization of American States. If it adopts sanctions against Cuba, as it must do if it is to uphold the 1947 Rio Treaty in the case of Castro's armed attack on the Venezuelan government, it will have met a critical test as a regional agency for preserving peace in the hemisphere. If not, the inter-American system will be seriously weakened.

A number of key Latin-American republics, notably Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, have long chosen to regard the turmoil in the Caribbean as a conflict between the United States and Cuba.

This time, however, they cannot treat the issue as one between Castro and the Yankees. It is Venezuela, not the United States, which has made the complaint against Cuba. And it is Venezuela, not the United States, which now is calling for the application of sanctions and enforcement of the terms of the Rio Treaty.

For the first time, the OAS must now decide whether to act against Castro in defense not of the United States but of a Latin republic. The evidence is clear, and confirmed by an OAS inspection team. Castro landed three tons of arms in Venezuela and brazenly tried to overthrow the democratically elected government of Romulo Betancourt.

In the case of the late Dictator Trujillo, who also sought to crush the Betancourt government, the OAS voted sanctions. If it fails to do so in the case of Castro, the OAS will be guilty of applying the Rio Treaty against a tyrant of the Right but not against one of the Left.

No regional system or defense treaty can afford to engage in such discriminatory and arbitrary practice. If the Latin republics condemn both the system and the treaty to impotence by refusing to act in defense of Venezuela, they will be undermining the very instruments which they might need some day for their own survival.

. . . and the U. S. on Wheat

Americans have assumed that the wheat we are shipping to the Soviet Union was being consumed there. Now, however, we learn that some of it is possibly being transshipped to Cuba, in violation of the terms of sale.

When the sale, evidently failed to secure adequate guaranties regarding the ulti-

mate disposal of our wheat. It cannot now safely continue shipping until and unless it secures such guaranties from the Soviet Union. It would hardly make sense to seek OAS sanctions which would cut off Castro from hemisphere resources while permitting the Soviet Union to use our greatest resources, American wheat, to be leaked to Cuba via Russia.